

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 071981
ORIGIN SS-25

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DRAFTED BY OES/NET/NEP:RDEMING:SK
APPROVED BY T/D - DR. NYE
S/AS - MR. KELLEY
OES/NET - MR. NOSENZO
NSC - MRS. MATHEWS
S/S -JETHYDEN
ACDA - MR. VANDOREN (SUBS.)
EUR - MR. VEST

-----066191 210037Z /61

O 210021Z MAR 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 071981

EXDIS, FOR THE AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, TECH, ENRG, UK

SUBJECT: WINDSCALE EXPANSION

1. WE BELIEVE THAT PRIOR TO THE PARLIAMENTARY DEBATE ON
WINDSCALE (WHICH WE UNDERSTAND IS SCHEDULED FOR MARCH 22),
IT IS IMPORTANT FOR YOU TO SEE DAVID OWEN TO MAKE THE
FOLLOWING POINTS:

A. WHILE WE REALIZE THAT THE EXPANSION OF WINDSCALE IS
BASICALLY A BRITISH DECISION, IT HAS PROFOUND INTERNATIONAL
RAMIFICATIONS;

B. OUR CHIEF CONCERN IS THAT TO MAKE SUCH A MAJOR MOVE
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TOWARD COMMERCIAL REPROCESSING OF THE TRADITIONAL TYPE AT
THIS TIME WILL SERIOUSLY PREJUDICE OUR COMMON EFFORTS TO
PERSUADE OTHERS TO DEFER DECISIONS ON REPROCESSING, AT
LEAST UNTIL AFTER THE RESULTS OF INFCE ARE KNOWN;

C. WE URGE YOU TO GIVE SERIOUS CONSIDERATION TO FOLLOWING
A COURSE SIMILAR TO OUR OWN, AND DEFER ANY FINAL DECISION

ON PROCEEDING WITH THIS FACILITY, AT LEAST PENDING THE RESULTS OF INFCE;

D. IF YOU NEVERTHELESS DECIDE TO PROCEED, WE URGE THAT

YOUR PUBLIC STATEMENTS: MAKE CLEAR THAT ACTUAL CONSTRUCTION OF THE REPROCESSING PART OF THE FACILITY WILL NOT START FOR SEVERAL YEARS; AND, EMPHASIZE YOUR INTENTION TO TAKE FULL ACCOUNT OF THE RESULTS OF INFCE IN HOW YOU DESIGN, SAFEGUARD, PROTECT AND MANAGE THE PLANT AND ITS PRODUCTS.

2. YOU MAY ALSO INFORM OWEN THAT THE PRESIDENT IS EXPECTED TO MAKE ESSENTIALLY THE SAME POINTS TO CALLAHAN IF THE ISSUE ARISES DURING THEIR MEETINGS. VANCE

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